

Gorges STATE PARK



GPS: 35.096, -82.951

Gorges State Park
976 Grassy Ridge Rd.
Sapphire, NC 28774
828-966-9099
gorges@ncparks.gov

Fun Facts

- The park was established in 1999.
- In 1916, the dam containing Lake Toxaway broke scouring the gorges and leaving 15-20 foot high piles of debris. These debris piles can still be seen today.
- After the flood, locals sold large tracts of land to the Singer Sewing Machine Company, which logged most of the land.
- In the 1940s-50s Duke Energy Corporation purchased the land for its steep topography and high rainfall, which offered opportunities for development of hydropower projects.
- In 1982, almost 275 acres of these lands were placed on the N.C. Registry of Natural Heritage because of numerous rare species that reside there.
- The park is located along the Blue Ridge Escarpment, an area where 5 streams carry water to the ocean from the divide between the Tennessee Valley drainage and the Atlantic drainage.
- The park has 21 of the 44 natural community types known in the mountain regions of North Carolina.

Activities



Experience the Park!

FISHING



Smallmouth bass



Brown trout



Redeye bass



Rainbow trout

13 TRAILS
offer over
56 MILES
of hiking
17 MILES
of equestrian trails
17 MILES
of biking



With over 80" of rainfall annually, Gorges is a temperate rainforest biome



About 125 rare plant and animal species can be found in the park, including Carolina star-moss and Oconee bells.



One of the largest known populations of the green salamander lives in the park



**25 TENT/
TRAILER
CAMPSITES**
**5 CAMPER
CABINS**
**BACKCOUNTRY
CAMPSITES**



ncparks.gov

